

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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S E C R E T BUCHAREST 0062

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2 AND 3

TAGS: TSPA ACOM RO

SUBJ: VIP TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

REFS: A. STATE 293899

B. BUCHAREST 6501

1. AS THE AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON, THE PARTICIPATION OF MAJOR GENERAL (ENGINEER) OVIDIU DIACONESCU OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IN PROFESSOR SPATARU'S DELEGATION FOR PURCHASING SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT (REFTELS) MIGHT HAVE AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT IN THE CONTEXT OF ANTI-TERRORISM. POST HAS FOR SOME TIME ATTEMPTED TO ENLIST ROMANIAN COLLABORATION IN ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS BUT WITHOUT MUCH SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE. KNOWLEDGE OF ROMANIAN CAPABILITIES AND ATTITUDES WHICH MIGHT BE GLEANED FROM GEN. DIACONESCU COULD BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING WHETHER COOPERATION IN THIS AREA IS AN OBJECTIVE TO BE PURSUED.

2. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT ALONE MAY PROVIDE SOME INSIGHT INTO CURRENT ROMANIAN CAPABILITIES--REAL AND IMAGINED. SPECIALISTS DEALING WITH THE DELEGATION MAY BE IN A POSITION TO ANALYZE THESE INTERESTS TO GAUGE THE CAPABILITIES OF ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. (COMMENT: ROMANIAN OFFICIALS TEND TO BE CLOSED-MOUTHED REGARDING THEIR ORGANIZATIONS AND GEN. DIACONESCU CAN BE EXPECTED TO FIT THE PATTERN, BUT WE SEE NO REASON TO AVOID

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TACTFUL APPROACHES UNLESS THE QUESTIONS ARE CLEARLY UNRELATED

TO THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT).

3. IN A BROADER AND LESS TECHNICAL CONTEXT, THE FOLLOWING OCCURS TO US AS AREAS FOR DISCUSSION AS OPPORTUNITIES PERMIT:

(A) PRESIDENTIAL AND VIP PROTECTION. ARE PROTECTIVE FORCES CENTRALLY OR REGIONALLY CONTROLLED OR BOTH? HOW READILY CAN THE PERMANENT FORCE BE EXPANDED AND WHAT IS THEIR PROTECTION OF FIXED AND MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS GEAR?

(B) ANTI-TERRORISM. IS THERE A SPECIAL UNIT HAVING THIS SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY? HAVE ARAB OR OTHER TERRORISTS SURFACED IN ROMANIA OR TRIED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY?

(C) AIRPORT AND BORDER SECURITY. IS THERE SINGLE OR DIVIDED JURISDICTION AND LATERAL COMMUNICATIONS AMONG ALL POINTS? IS THERE DIRECT ACCESS TO CENTRALLY-STORED PERSONALITY DATA? COORDINATING STRUCTURE BETWEEN ARMY AND POLICE?

4. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON AGENCIES STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHE TO US-ROMANIAN COLLABORATION IN ANTI-TERRORIST FIELD AND ASKING DIACONESCU'S ASSISTANCE AFTER HE RETURNS TO BUCHAREST IN PROMOTING SUCH COOPERATION. OUR THOUGHT WOULD BE TO HAVE EMBASSY OFFICERS SEEK HIM OUT ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF COOPERATION AFTER HIS RETURN IN LIGHT OF INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING VISIT.

5. DELEGATION PER BUCHAREST 6640 WAS DUE TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON JANUARY 7 AT 1725 HOURS. WE TRUST THAT VARIOUS AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH DIACONESCU CAN PROVIDE HIM APPROPRIATE ATTENTION FROM THE START AND THAT A THOROUGH EVALUATION, INCLUDING SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS, WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE ENF OF THE VISIT.
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